

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 11, 2021, 5:00 P.M. via Zoom

The meeting opened at 5:10 p.m.

Members present: Pat Konecky (co-chair), Emily Eyre (co-chair), Marj Wexler, Sharon Waskow, and Richard Allen. Also present: Bonnie Greenwood

Minutes of the October 13, 2021, meeting were accepted unanimously.

Sustainability Coordinator Report: No update

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness: Emily reported the survey is taking place during November. Dec 14-16 (check dates) for stakeholders Zoom session.

Update on 3 Town Collaboration: Pat reported that Stephanie Blumenthal requested that people contact their representative to support 3 bills, which are the Better Bottle Bill, Extended Producer Responsibility, and Right To Repair Act (electronic devices). Richard Allen will review the bills and create a summary, listing the pros and cons. The committee will vote at our December meeting to decide if we wish to send letters to our representatives as a committee. Individuals are encouraged to call our representatives and ask them to vote for the 3 bills.

Discussion was held to decide if the committee wished to hold the rain barrel sale in 2022. Before deciding, the following questions need to be answered by the Great American Barrel Company: 1) Is there a rain barrel order minimum? 2) Is it possible for the order page have an optional choice to add on \$5 to help the Green Committee with expenses? Emily will contact the company. She will also ask Mary Brazie to see if it's permissible for the committee to make a small profit from the sale of rain barrels.

Berkshire Edge: No report at this time.

Egremont Post: Pat and Sharon are creating an article interviewing Susan Waite DEP Western Division (MAC) about recycling, her job, and recommend ways to educate our community about recycling.

Holiday Gift: Marj will handle collecting money for the gifts this year.

At approximately 5:45 p.m. the meeting experienced a technical glitch and the meeting had to be suspended for a few minutes. The meeting was restarted at 6:05 p.m.

Lawn Signs at Transfer Station about recycling: Sharon explained a series of lawn signs could be designed to give a positive Green message that would be fun, light, and thought-provoking. If the committee were to move forward, the campaign would take place in the Spring or early Summer. The committee needs to see if this would be permitted by asking Mary Brazie. Sharon suggested weather-proofed signs and Marj suggested signs appear to be hand written as that tends to draw attention. Sharon will seek permission from Mary Brazie and perhaps Jim Noe.

Budget Request: Pat suggested a 2 person-working group be formed to discuss budget needs. Pat suggested Richard, as he has extensive budget knowledge, and will follow up with him so they can work together. She reminded the committee that if our projects have to do with recycling and waste categories, the funds could come from DEP monies.

Sharon suggested the committee think of ways to increase membership/or individual project involvement. She stated that the committee would benefit from having more members and it would be beneficial to think of creative ideas to attract people. She felt there was a lot of good energy from residents who showed a positive awareness of Green issues. She suggested the committee write a more provocative invitation. Pat said Sharon's recent draft educating people on how to participate in Green issues was a great "hook". Attracting new members could be a 2-step process: 1) to provide info that they can use and 2) to try to get them engaged. Personal invitations can be a highly effective way to bring people to meetings. Sharon proposed that more frequent posting on Egremont Post would keep the committee in the forefront of people's minds, which was agreed upon by the committee. It was suggested the committee could harvest the names of anyone who responds to the posts and invite them to a meeting. Pat stated that very few people want to join a committee and attend regular Zoom meetings. The committee agreed it needs to find a way to make membership or involvement more appealing. The committee will continue sending information with the intention of eventually creating a loop of community engagement. The committee agreed there is more to discuss regarding attracting new members and participation.

Sharon submitted an idea to invite residents to choose topics they would like information on (legislation, involvement of banks and private equity in funding fossil fuels, the relationship of fossil fuels to plastic etc.)We would inform them of the issue and suggest quick actions they could take such as sign a petition, call an elected official, watch a webinar, etc.

Pat suggested that we simplify by sending out calls for specific action as they come up. No need to list all those topics. Requires too much work.

Sharon agreed and said summaries of the issue we are asking people to respond to should be added to quick action alerts

Sharon suggested that we could have zoom webinars with experts to discuss some of the issues she listed. People who come to the webinar could be approached for membership.

The committee discussed ongoing educational messages in Egremont Post (alternatives to plastics, bulk purchase/energy savings. Due to time restrictions, the committee agreed that further discussion could take place at next meeting.

Pat suggested the committee keep a regular presence in Egremont Post and/or Newsletter by posting items for the community. The committee voted unanimously to approve the concept of an ongoing presence on the Egremont Post and Town Newsletter.

Mention of Massachusetts legislative info: tabled until next meeting

Other new business

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday November 30th at 5:00pm.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Eyre